

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19-27 and 35-49 have been examined. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 47-49. Claims 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 35, 38, 39, and 42 have been amended. Re-examination and reconsideration of pending claims 19-27 and 35-46, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the kind and courteous interview of March 29, 2004. In the interview, independent claim 19 was discussed in light of Eggers et al. An agreement was reached that claim 19, as amended, is allowable over the cited art.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 19-22, 24-27, 35-39, and 42-46 were rejected as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,105,581 issued to Eggers et al. As noted above, it was agreed in the Examiner interview that independent claim 19, as amended, is allowable. Dependent claims 20-27 and 35-41 depend on claim 19 and hence should also be allowable. Independent claim 42 has been amended to recite similar limitations as those in claim 19. Hence, claim 42 and dependent claims 43-46 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

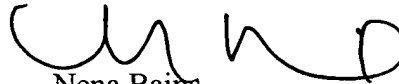
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/651,669
Amdt. dated April 1, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nena Bains', with a stylized, cursive script.

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